



## Bessie B. Farrar.

[From Missionary Tidings, April, 1898.]

In the beautiful city of Louisville, Ky., Bessie Bolling Farrar was born November 6, 1872. The home of her parents, John William D. Farrar and Virginia Carter Farrar, was made very bright by the presence of their little sunbeam. Having consecrated her to the Lord from infancy, the loving mother sought, day by day, to teach this little one the sweet lessons of Jesus.

When she was quite a little girl her parents moved to Richmond, Va., where she spent the first seven or eight years of her life. About that time her father's business took him to Manchester, and here the most important days of her young life were spent.

Every Sunday she and her little sister, two years younger, would trudge over the long bridge leading from Manchester to the Seventh Street Christian Church in Richmond, talking along the way about their library books.

At last the time came when she felt that she must give herself to the Savior; so the two sisters talked it over, and together they knelt to

ask the guidance of their Father in Heaven, and then both decided to go forward the following Lord's Day to make their confession.

So in dear old Seventh Street Church "Our Bessie" gave her heart to Jesus when she was twelve years old. Ever since that time she has been faithful in His service.

At this time she was deeply impressed with the great need of sending the Gospel to the heathen. One day, after she had attended the C. W. B. M. meeting with her mother, I found in her drawer these words: "I have consecrated myself to the Lord to carry the Gospel to the heathen, and will make it my life work, if I am thirty before I can prepare myself to go."

When she was fourteen her parents moved back to Richmond so that they could give their children better educational advantages. Not being very strong, her loved ones feared her great desire to study and improve every opportunity would seriously injure her health, but "Our Bessie" felt that she must improve every moment and would not give up. Finally her health broke down under the mental strain and tax on her eyes, one of which gave her very serious trouble at that time. I shall never forget the day I came home from school and found a napkin on the door, and saw the anxious faces of the neighbors who met me in the hall and told me that my darling sister was ill from an operation which had been performed on her eye. She had been having convulsions all day, one after the other. I could hear her

praying, oh! so earnestly, that the dear Lord would not take her until she could go to India to give those sad people the glad message of a risen Lord. Her prayers were answered and her dear life was spared. After her recovery, she resumed her studies and continued at the Richmond high school until the fall of '91, when the way was made ready for her to go to Bethany College to prepare for her life work.

Here, I am sure, some of her happiest days have been spent. Although she was always looking forward to the time when she could start for her far-off mission, she knew how to improve every opportunity for doing good around her, and seemed to live in her daily life those beautiful words of Miss Havergal's, of which she is so fond:

“Just to let thy Father do what He will,  
Just to know that He is true, and be still;  
Just to follow Him, hour by hour, as He leadeth,  
Just to draw the moment's power as it needeth;  
Just to trust Him, this is all;  
Then the day will surely be  
Peaceful, whatsoe'er befall,  
Bright and blessed, calm and free.”

In the summer of '94 she graduated. Then came the sad parting with loved friends.

At our National Convention, held in Richmond in the fall of '94, it was decided that she should go to Deoghur, India, in response to the earnest appeal from dear Miss Adam for more helpers. “Our Bessie” rejoiced that she had been called to this the darkest spot in India.

October 4, 1895, she bade farewell to the dear loved ones in the home in Danville, Va., where

her parents had moved while she was in college. For Christ's sake she was willing to leave them and go into far-away India to lift the banner of our Lord—not because she loved her dear ones any less, but because she loved her Savior far more.

On October 19, in company with the Drs. Miller and Miss Spradlin, she turned her face toward India's coral strand. How lovingly our Father has watched over her during the years of her labor in that dark country!

Now "Our Bessie" has just reached the twenty-fifth mile-stone of her earthly pilgrimage, and this is the message which comes from her far-away home:

"To-day I come to the quarter-century mile-stone along life's journey. I wanted to stop and look at it and dream about all those twenty-five miles I have come, but no! They tell me that no one can stop in this journey—every moment must find us nearer the next stone. I would have asked about the road for this coming mile, but I would only have been told that only as I take the steps can I know. I can tell that the way points up hill, but that is all. I have a Guide whom I trust. He has led me all the way so far, and has promised to lead me till I reach Home. He is very faithful and very gentle. There is none like Him. So the coming mile must be a happy one so long as I follow closely."

BIRDIE FARRAR OMER.

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